



Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health District Coordinating Council¹ Update

District: Tribal District

Date: 03/18/2010

Brief overview of Tribal Public Health District:

The tribal public health district was formed in 2008 and staff was hired in 2009. There are two positions in this office. The staff are based at the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians however work with all Federally Recognized Tribes in Maine. The five tribal communities served with this program are The Aroostook Band Of Micmac & The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians located in Aroostook County; The Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township & The Passamaquoddy Tribe of Pleasant Point located in Washington County and The Penobscot Indian Nation located in Penobscot County.

We have been charged to :

- Serve as a liaison between tribal, district and state public health entities.
- Assist in coordinating state public health functions at the tribal level.
- Assist Maine CDC District Public Health Liaisons in public health planning efforts.
- Serve as a tribal representative on those District Coordinating Councils that correspond with tribal areas.
- As needed, work with Maine CDC Public Health Units serving Districts that correspond with tribal areas.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of District Public Health Improvement Plans for Districts that correspond with tribal areas

Ongoing or upcoming projects or priority issues:

Developing a comprehensive survey instrument to be used by all Tribes to assess current health status of tribal members.

Development and dissemination of Quarterly Maine Intertribal Health Newsletter.

Ongoing public health education activities in each tribal community:

- Provide educational opportunities for the tribal communities, such as, newsletters, health fairs, support groups, community educational classes, fitness facility opportunities, etc.
- Encourage self-management of high blood pressure
- Provide educational opportunities for tribal youth regarding cardiovascular disease, tobacco use and other health related topics.
- Provide opportunities for youth to experience making appropriate lifestyle changes.

Status of Tribal Waponahki Assessment:

The Tribal Health Directors, Public Health Liaisons, MeCDC-Office of Minority Health; MeHAF staff are working cooperatively with The University of Nebraska Medical Center to develop; implement and analyze this assessment. This survey instrument is planned to be completed by June 2010. All tribal assessments will completed by the end of 2010.

Organizations represented at meeting(s):

Houlton Band Of Maliseet Indians; Indian Township Health Center; MeCDC Office of Minority Health Micmac Service Unit ; Penobscot Nation Health Center; Pleasant Point Health Center

Other district issues (external to the DCC) that impact public health

H1N1

Tribal Public Health Liaisons are also Tribal District Vaccine Coordinators.